

23 March 2006
Thursday

READINGS

Psalm 42; Genesis 46:1-7, 28-34; I Corinthians 9:1-15; Mark 6:30-46

DEVOTION

During OIF 04-06 there have been some tough days, and the toughest have involved visiting seriously wounded Marines in the AF Theater Hospital. One visit, especially, sticks in my mind. Sergeant Daniel Gilyeat, a Marine Reservist, had one leg amputated below the knee, but he didn't let that stop him. He told the nurses: "I have a Marine Corps Ball to dance at in November." His attitude, in the face of adversity, was incredible. It reminds me of the poem on special plaque given to me before I shipped out to Desert Storm on New Year's Eve in 1990.

Footprints in the Sand

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed
he was walking along the beach with the LORD.

Across the sky flashed scenes from his life.
For each scene he noticed two sets of
footprints in the sand: one belonging to him, and the other to the LORD.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him,
he looked back at the footprints in the sand.

He noticed that many times along the path of
his life there was only one set of footprints.

He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life.

This really bothered him and he questioned the LORD about it:

"LORD, you said that once I decided to follow
you, you'd walk with me all the way.
But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life,
there is only one set of footprints.
I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me."

The LORD replied: "My son, my precious child,
I love you and I would never leave you.
During your times of trial and suffering,
when you see only one set of footprints,
it was then that I carried you."

by Mary Stevenson

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